

Suggested Amendments to Goals for a Legislative Calendar

Legislative Council
Proposed for January 8, 2014
Prepared by Susan B. Fox

Goals

To empower and enable citizen legislators to serve well during the session and the interim by scheduling a legislative calendar to provide:

- 1) a schedule that assists in the recruitment of candidates;
- 2) respect for employment, families, and the demands of citizen life;
- 3) time to prepare for session between the election, caucus, and session, to build lines of communication and relationships, and to plan;
- 4) opportunities for legislators to absorb what's happening and appropriate training opportunities in multiple stages at appropriate times;
- 5) sufficient time for the public to have the opportunity to participate in the committee process and testify;
- 6) time for bill requesting and drafting and for leadership to analyze bills for duplication and strategy;
- 7) time to work, maintain momentum, and compel action toward completion, ~~and~~
- 8) time to build and use leeway for balancing the necessity for deadlines and flexibility;
- 9) ability to react to the unique nature of each session; and
- 10) time for legislative interaction with newly-elected executive officers on topics such as building a state budget.

Additional Information

- 1) Research needed on potential obstacles to changing calendar:
 - a. Biennial schedule is difficult to recruit for, would a change to annual sessions be any easier to recruit for? What are the obstacles identified in recruitment?
 - b. How would a change in calendar affect living logistics for legislators and House and Senate staff recruitment?
- 2) Provide and solicit additional information on bill draft requesting (esp. before election), bill drafting cycle.

Notes on Goals from Strategic Planning

- 1) Time to build lines of communication and relationships
- 2) Time to plan, including an exit strategy
- 3) Build/use leeway
- 4) Time to absorb what's happening
- 5) Ability to recruit candidates
- 6) Biennial/annual : time to work/momentum
- 7) Respect ag, families, citizen life
- 8) Compel action during session
- 9) Time for prep between caucus and January
- 10) Time for additional training throughout – orientation, ongoing, break down into smaller units